

# Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Wisconsin

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# DROOPING SEDGE

(*Carex prasina*)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Threatened



**Description:** Sedges at first glance resemble grasses, but upon closer examination prove to have some significant differences. For example,



their stems are solid, have no joints and often are markedly triangular. Drooping sedge grows in tufts or dense tussocks about 10 to 24 inches tall. Each stem has several long clusters of minute flowers, the terminal (topmost) spike usually has only male flowers with stamens. The flowers are so small that a hand lens is necessary to see the identifying characteristics.

**Habitat:** Drooping sedge grows in wet, marshy wooded areas and along streambanks. These sites sometimes remain constantly wet due to springs and seeps. Yellow birch, black ash and skunk cabbage are frequent associates.

**Forestry Considerations:** Single-tree selection silviculture is the most compatible harvest technique where this sedge grows. Forestry activities that would change the water table in areas where the drooping sedge grows should be avoided, and *Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality* should be followed.

